

a¹ Application 08/710,486, filed September 18, 1996, now U.S.

Patent 5,826,636, ---.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claim 1, as follows:

a² 1. (Amended) A cartridge for charging a closed, pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system with a fluid, comprising:

a) a closed, non-pressurized cylindrical cartridge, wherein the cartridge has two ends, a first open end and a second open end,

wherein the first open end comprises an inner nozzle which connects to the system being charged and an outer nozzle;

b) a predetermined amount of the fluid; and

c) a piston sealably disposed with the second open end of the cartridge,

wherein the cartridge is adapted to connect sealably and releasably to the pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system via fluidly coupling means to form a closed binary system,

92 wherein the fluidly coupling means is a connector assembly having a first end connected to the inner nozzle of the cartridge and a second end connected to a service valve of the pressurized system,

wherein the connector assembly comprises:

- i) a flexible conduit,
- ii) a thread on a first end of the flexible conduit, to engage with the inner nozzle of the cartridge, and
- iii) a release valve on a second end of the flexible conduit, to engage with the service valve of the pressurized system, and

wherein the connector assembly further comprises a valve at one end of the flexible conduit, which prevents any material from back flushing into and contaminating the fluid in the cartridge.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.